

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 8, 15, 17 and 21 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to remove CN(cyano) from the group in which X is selected.

Claims 1, 8, 15, 17 and 21 have been amended to correct a typographical error. In claims 1, 8, 15, 17 and 21 isothiocyanate was incorrectly labeled with NSC; however, as is shown on page 4, line 4 of the present application, the correct label is NCS. This is an amendment to correct a typographical error, and does not change the scope of the claims as originally filed.

A clean copy of all claims 1-24 is provided in Appendix A1. A marked-copy of the amended claims is provided in Appendix A2. The Applicant respectfully requests that the enclosed claim amendments be entered as shown.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

In section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,314,640 or 5,453,864). “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131 quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not contain all of the elements claimed in amended claims 1 and 15 or as claimed in claim 3.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3 and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Yamada, et al. (US 5,314,640 or 5,453,864). Yamada, et al. discloses a tolan derivative suitable for use in a liquid crystal composition. In Claims 1 and 15, as amended, the polar group that may be positioned at site X is selected from the group consisting of